

**The Evening World.**  
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## THE COMMUNIPAW INQUIRY.

UPON the beginning of the inquiry into the dynamite explosion at Communipaw, Public Prosecutor Garven gave out the statement: "It is not our intention to pick out little men in the employ of big corporations and make scapegoats of them." Following that came the report that one of the first disclosures of the inquiry was a statement of eight men summoned as witnesses that they had been offered money to change their testimony.

The two items have doubtless no other relation than that of being developments from the same case. Still each serves to emphasize the other, and to increase public interest in the investigation.

High officials are not so readily absolved by scapegoat processes in these days as they were a few years ago. The law has come very close to the seats of the mighty. It is no longer possible to silence inquiry by hush money, and hardly credible that it has been attempted.

## HEROES OF POTTER'S FIELD.

DISCOVERY has been made that a man who died a short time ago in the New York Hospital and was buried in a pauper's grave was an English engineer, a fellow of the Royal Society, who after expending years of toil and a fortune of \$100,000 in an effort to augment human control of electrical energy had broken down in the task and died of starvation and exhaustion.

In the scientific eminence of the person and in the amount of money expended this story is unusual, but otherwise it is common enough. The advance of mankind in science and in mechanism has cost much in labor and danger and sacrifice. The daring courage and tireless energy of those that have led the march of the conquering and the colonizing races have been equalled by the patient, laborious ones that have sought out the secrets of truth and mastered the forces of nature.

The Potter's field has its heroes as well as the battlefield. Many a tall monument commemorates the name of some successful one whose triumph was due to the toil of an unknown predecessor who rests in an unmarked grave.

## ECONOMY BY COMPULSION.

URING the fiscal year 1908 there were killed on the street railways of the city 303 persons. During the corresponding year 1910 the number killed was but 162. The death rate of street car accidents had thus been reduced 50 per cent. in two years.

The cause of the decrease in fatalities was the adoption by the street railway companies of a system of safety appliances under orders from the Public Service Commission. The showing carries with it, therefore, a commendation for the work of the Commission, but a condemnation of the commercialism that prevented the companies from providing such appliances upon their own initiative.

The cost of installing the safety devices is estimated at \$300,000. The companies will probably save more than that sum in reduced law costs and damages for deaths and accidents. So they gain by the gain to the public. Yet it took compulsion to make them adopt the economy. Such is the way of corporations.

## A DELICATE QUESTION.

POLITICIANS in Illinois class Vermilion as an \$8,000 county because it is said to require that sum to elect any man to a county office. Investigations now going on there disclose a practice of something like wholesale bribery, both in the county seat, Danville, and in the rural districts.

These reports, following so closely the revelations of bribery in Adams County, Ohio, raise a question as to whether there would be any gain in honesty in shifting the election of Senators from Legislatures to the people.

When Senator Root finished his elaborate review of the Lorimer case and urged that the seat he now holds in the Senate be declared vacant, Senator Bailey met all the facts and the logic and the eloquence with the blunt statement that if Root's argument holds good more seats than that of Lorimer would have to be vacated. The statement may have been true, but would the Senate of the United States gain anything by shifting the election of two of its members from the Illinois legislators to Vermilion County farmers?

## Letters From the People

**London's Police Headquarters.**  
To the Editor of The Evening World:  
Just what is "Scotland Yard" in London?

**The Canal Debate.**  
To the Editor of The Evening World:  
In response to the request of a reader I have appended what I think are some of the best arguments upon why the Panama Canal should not be fortified:

(1) The canal would be a war-time without fortifications, for by the rules of war unfortified places cannot be bombarded. (2) Because Great Britain's policy of non-fortification of the Panama Canal has been very successful. (3) Because the original intention of our Government, clearly expressed up to 1907, was not to fortify. (4) Because our agreement with England to have no fortifications along our Canadian border on either side of the line has been a great success. Until we have tried to make such an agreement with other nations and failed it would be foolish to fortify the canal. (5) Because fortification would cost at least \$20,000,000, and possibly not less than \$50,000,000, at the start, with constant additions in the years to come. If we must defend the canal in war there would have to be a guard of warships at each end, and these would be enough without the forts.

**Woes of a Policeman's Wife.**  
To the Editor of The Evening World:  
The New York policemen often have to wait two weeks for their pay. In the mean time their wives are forced to appear occasionally with buttons, baker, grocer, etc. When the check does arrive it is often almost spent. I think it is impossible for a woman with children to save money on a policeman's salary when he is so often replacing his uniform. (An entire outfit costs over \$100.) It is a struggle to live comfortably, especially when clothing and foodstuffs are so high, on \$1,000 a year, even if one gets the check on the first day of the month. To wait until two weeks later often means hardship and debt.

PATRICK'S WIFE.

The Day of Rest.  
By Maurice Ketten.

## Mr. Jarr Joins the Munchausen Class With a Wondrous Tale About a Cargo of Trained Flies

By Roy L. McCardell.

"His bear is fat, Gus," said Mr. Jarr.

But he said it in a sort of as-friend-to-friend tone.

Gus gave him a scornful look.

"Maybe you should want me to run over to Munch and bring you back a siddler of Burgundy?"

he asked. "What difference is it what you think about my beer?"

The pressure is only off."

Mr. Jarr came in at this point and walked over to the cigar lighter.

"Hey!" he cried, "there's no alcohol in this thing. Gimme a match, Gus."

"You got get your matches where you got your cigars," said Gus.

"Have a drink!" asked Mr. Jarr.

Mr. Jarr. "Take something yourself, Gus."

Gus sullenly served the beer, and then, going to the cigar box, he took out a cigar and looked at it, and then put it back in the box.

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This ceremony signified that Gus would smoke it later on.

Mr. Slavinsky came in about this time and sidled over to the free lunch counter. A few bits of shattered bread at the bottom of one bowl and some

cracker dust in another were the sole remnants of what a card in Gus's window evidently alluded to as "Hot Business Men's Lunch Saved All Day."

"My!" said Mr. Slavinsky in a plaintive way, "there ain't any of them cheeses left, even."

"Is it that I disappoint you because you can't have a Welsh rabbit party at your house to-night?" asked Gus.

"As for pickled herrings or sauerkraut or Hebehurst, I ain't seen none here since warm weather."

"Sure," said Gus, "and you won't see any till warm weather again. I don't need any free lunch except crackers and cheese till the summer comes again, and if I was Chay Pierpoint Morgan I couldn't keep enough cheese and crackers on the counter. Slavinsky, sometimes you put so many crackers in your pocket to take home that I think your wife's a parrot."

"Why do you only have solid free lunch in warm weather?" asked Mr. Jarr.

"I tell you why," said Gus. "It's because I got a bad cold and a steady cold. I don't see what free lunch has got to do with alleviating a bad head," suggested Mr. Rangle. "But I'll be the goat. Why don't you have real free lunch till hot weather because you are 'backheaded'?"

"It ain't any of them 'ask-me-later' jokes," said Gus. "When I have a good free lunch in the summer you see I have them wire netting covers for the free lunch, don't you?"

"Yes," said Mr. Jarr, "that's to keep off the flies."

"No," said Gus, "it's to keep them off. When the flies is all on the free lunch I put the covers on and that traps them, and they don't bother my head till some loafer comes in and lifts the cover and lets them out again."

"Why don't you have trained flies?" asked Mr. Jarr.

"Trained flies?" repeated Gus. "I never heard of them."

"They are all the rage now," said Mr. Jarr. "You set out fly food for them and then you show them that you'll feed them three times a day and they mustn't light on your face or head or on the bar. So it isn't long before you have no bother with them."

"I don't believe you," said Gus.

"But it's true," said Mr. Rangle, solemnly. "An importer downtown just brought in a whole cargo of those trained flies. They were unloading them off the ship the other day. But you have to be careful of one thing: when beer is the least bit flat they can't keep from drinking it, and they always die."

"Suppose some got away from that ship?" said Gus. "My, I better have Elmer tap a fresh keg. If some come here that's trained, they are all welcome to stay till summer."

"I'm surprised at you, Gus, falling for that," said Mr. Jarr, relenting.

"You mind your business!" said Gus, indignantly. "I can believe a lie if I want to, and, anyhow, I always see it's state beer these flies get crowned in."

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"IFS" That Changed History  
By Albert Payson Terhune

No. 31—An Afternoon Stroll That Drove America Gold-Crazy.

James Marshall, an eccentric New Jersey man, had not happened to stroll through the bed of an empty California mill race, one afternoon in 1848—

Marshall was working for a pioneer, Capt. Sutter, who had settled in California before the Mexican war. Sutter had come to America from Germany, had slowly wandered across the continent and had started a ranch near the site of the present city of Sacramento.

He decided to build a saw mill and to cut up his own lumber. That was the real opening of the California gold fields.

Sutter sent James Marshall, a visionary, impractical wheelwright, from New Jersey, to choose a site for this mill. Marshall selected a spot in the little Coloma Valley, where there was fine water power. The rude wooden mill was built. So was the dam. And a mill-race was dug out.

At last the mill-race and its gates were ready. The water was turned in so that the loose earth and gravel might be washed away from the bottom of the race. Then the water was shut off again, leaving the race dry and clean.

On the afternoon of Jan. 15, 1848, Marshall went for a walk. His wanderings carried him through the washed and dry bed of the mill-race. As he strolled aimlessly along the bottom of the race he noticed that the sunlight was reflected from many little yellowish specks in the rotten granite that formed the bed-rock.

Always on the lookout for unusual things, he stooped and scooped out several of these shiny particles. They were smooth and brass colored, and averaged about the size of a grain of wheat. One was a lump nearly as heavy as a ten-dollar gold piece.

Marshall ran back to the mill and announced that he had found gold. The men gazed at him uncomprehendingly, and for days he was the laughing stock of the camp. But he stuck to his story. He resolved to test the bits of metal. But he had no regular means of doing it. He gave the biggest nugget to a Mrs. Wimmer, and told her to boil it in salutarious water. As a joke she tossed it, instead, into a kettle of boiling soap. But next morning Marshall fished it out and found the lye in the soap had not dissolved it. Nor did a bath in vinegar stain its lustre.

Marshall had the specimens sent to an old miner and carried some of the "dust" to Sutter. Experts at once declared the metal to be pure gold. A newspaper mentioned the fact—and the life-and-death race for wealth set in.

First, California settlers turned from all other work and began to flock to the goldfields. Towns were emptied, business ceased. Newspapers and shops closed down. The West had gone gold-crazy. Across the continent across the woods—flushed the tidings. And the wild yearning for wealth dragged hosts of men from peaceful Eastern or European homes.

The rush was on. New Yorkers, Southerners, New Englanders, sturdy pioneers of the Middle West—men of the plough, of workshops, and of the pen alike—dropped their trades or professions, left their comfortable homes and plunged into the wilderness on a perilous 5,000-mile journey in search of fortune.

It was a state of affairs seldom found in all history. Men sold farms, houses, valuables and even from the banks their life-savings in order to get passage and equipment for this land of promise on the other side of the continent. Men who were unfit for hard work or for privations, old men and men who knew nothing about mining, all rushed to the Eldorado where they supposed gold could be found for the looking.

Across the prairies plodded long, slow lines of caravans, headed west, crowded with gold-seekers. Many of these adventurers sickened and died from exposure. More perished from starvation or were killed by Indians. But the mad rush did not slacken.

Into California poured the treasure-hunters. Some of them found a little gold. A few of them cleaned up great fortunes. Thousands either crept back home in utter poverty or left their bones to whiten in the gulches. The majority would have been far better off if Marshall had never taken that famous stroll through the empty Coloma mill-race.

Then began a strange phase of life in California. An era of rough lawlessness such as Bret Harte so vividly describes in his Western stories, an era of danger, crime, bloodshed, sudden wealth, heart-breaking hardships, out of which California was to rise from a desolate waste to greatness.

Marshall himself joined in the mining mania. But he failed miserably. Sutter, too, was ruined by the gold rush. Both men were pensioned by the California Legislature. But after a time their pensions were withdrawn. Marshall died in 1885 in a hotel not far from the spot where he first found gold. A monument has since been erected to his memory. Sutter, too, died miserably poor.

We laugh at the ignorant sixteenth century Spaniards who thought America was a miraculous treasure land. Were they really much more to be laughed at than the throngs of enlightened nineteenth century Americans who had the same insane ideas about California?

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